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YOUTH WRITERS

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS



An idea

I learned something very important and just common sense in DYA. Its don't put your head down, and never give up no matter what situation your in. I'm sort of glad and thankful that there's a DYA, because it helps keep kids out of trouble and it teaches them all kinds of valuable lessons. You could learn something from the system, but you could learn much more from your fellow inmates. I myself was inspired from an inmate who has been in DYA for such a long time. He has been put down and told that he can't ever finish high school but he never gave up. He always looked at the brighter side of things. Now he has finished high school and has proved to everybody that put him down that he can make it. He has made it even though he did it all behind bars. I encourage all who read this to never give up and don't get upset for being in DYA because you might just learn something.

E.H. (male) age: 16

Invictus

Out of the night that covers me, Black as the pit from the pole to pole.

I thank whatever Gods may be For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance

I have not winced nor cried aloud.

Under the bludgeonings of chance

My head is bloody, but not unbowed

Beyond this place of with and tears

Looms but the horror of the shade,

And yet the menace of the years

Finds, and shall find, the unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate

How charged with punishments the scroll.

J am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.

William Ernest Henley







Release me Crash into me Make me fall apart Steal my identity Cut out my heart Rip me to shreds Pulling me down Look into my head Throw me around / Follow me here As I bleed and I brea Listen to my tears And the sorrow they make They fall to the ground And echo through the walls Way beyond down Where nobody falls Come into this place Release my soul Look into my face And make it go , Follow me, helpime Find me inside Help me to be. What I cannot find Surrounded and seized Broken by fear Drowned and betrayed... please iust Release me ... release me from Reyne Solis, mesa, A favorite poem for these two clients. H.S /A.S (Male) age:16/ 14

Paradise

Partying and friends is all I love to do, chilling with the boys is what I thought was cool. But I finally realize that it's not the way to go. At times I think to myself what should I do? Am I going to stay this way or make a better day? I never liked school or even attempted to try because all I was interested in was partying, girls, and getting high. But when I'm done with all of that, I say to myself I got to do something about this. I need to seek help. Changing my life is what I really think of a lot, when I start to do it I end up getting caught. I hope that one day someone helps me change cause if I don't then I ain't going nowhere. When I sit alone I close my eyes and I picture myself in a place called paradise. I see myself laughing and smiling too. But when it all goes away I start to loose myself. Some days and nights I cry to myself. But the only thing running in my head is I need HELP!!! I know that all I got to do is keep up cause everything is going to be alright.

"God grant me the Serenity to accept the things that I cannot change,

Courage to change the things that I can and

The Wisdom to know the difference." Written By: H.J.P. (male) 17





ONE STEP PURPLER

My life isn't that different from the court system, there always people judging they only know me by paper, and my appearance. I compare my life to the court system because my mother has never approved of me. She never was proud of me, she can't look at me and I never loved the court system, so I guess I don't love me life. But, I also know that I can do something productive on my own. I plan on finishing school, staying out of trouble, making a life on my own that I won't give up on. So my message to whoever reads this is don't give up keep on going no matter what's in your way. And love and obey your parents because without love and obedience your life will behind bars. Shoot, shoot, Happy Holiday!

E.H (16)MALE

Experience

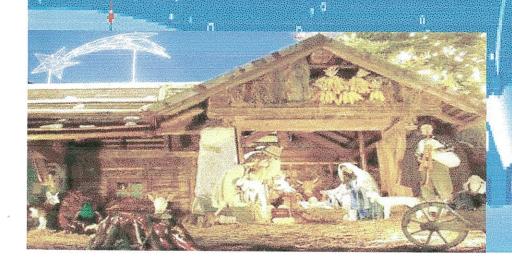
What I've experienced through my time coming in this facility (DYA) is a lot of changes. Since I was in elementary I've been under the juvenile court system, it's been hard for me and my parents. I'm tired of bringing my parents to the court house. If I could start all over I would start from the beginning. When I get released I'm going to go to school, abide all Guam laws and stay positive. To be honest, the places I've been to because of the negative things I did. If a person was to break the laws of Guam he would end up in jail. But if a person was to do something positive others would look up to him or be grateful, cause and affect.

K.N.N (MALE) age:16

Make the change

This is an article of an 18yr old male. I've spent most of my teen age in DYA and I've only realized it now. I dropped out of school at 167to sell drugs. I only dropped out because I was making as much money as a person who got a college degree. It was all good until I got caught. In DYA I got nothing but time to think about my life. I told myself I would change but I was only lying to myself. When I got released I went back to the same old things I was doing and by 17 I was a total different person. I would stay up for 3 to 4 days without sleep, high as a kite. Cannabis wasn't enough for me to I moved to a more serious drug and became addicted and In no time I was swapping my parents' stuff just to get my next fix and got busted again. And while In DYA I had the "forget the world" attitude and got released to a rehabilitation center. And there, I met an old man who gave me the advice that changed my life. He said stop feeling sorry for yourself, you said you had a rough child hood no mom no dad and what has it given you. I looked at him with teary eyes and shrugged he said "It gave you strength" he said "because you had to fend for yourself and that taught you a lot" and he was right and that is the advice I'm leaving with you. All the times when no one understands you, you think no one cares or you're not good enough or you just can't make it, think to yourself "I can make It, I am worth It" and when you think you're all alone just remember you're not. There's kids who live in and have to deal with conditions, well I guess what I'm trying to say is... no matter what life throws at you always do what's best even if your friend makes fun of you it's your life that's going to be wasted if you happen to go to jail or die from drug use. I'm going to leave you with this a smart person learns from their mistakes, a wise person learns from others. So please, be wise.

B.B (MALE) age: 18



Guilt

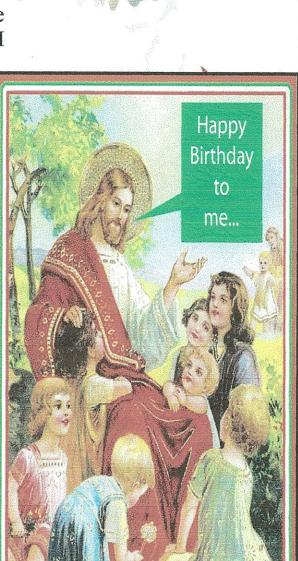
My decisions in life can really hurt other people and I was too stubborn to recognize that. Not only does my negative decision destroy the moods of people but it also ruins Christmas, because Christmas is meant for families to get together and had a merry time. But with me, the only boy in the house in jail I know and I have a feeling my family's

going to feel bad and feel like something's missing and I'm guilty for that. I want my family to have a good time. I hope and pray that I get released to at least celebrate Christmas with my family.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

E.H. (Male) age: 16





Locked up

Hey, my name is J.T. when I first got locked up it felt like a long time. The longest I've spent in here was two days. When I got remanded I was sad and my mom started to cry so when I get out I'm going to say I'm sorry to my family. My mom was mad because I'm going to miss Thanksgiving. I hope I get visited on Sunday I don't know why I messed up. Now I'm regretting what I did to my family. My family started to cry when they found out so I felt so hurt. When I'm in my cell I really think about my mom, my brother ,my sisters, and my grandma. So when I get out I'm going to straighten up and stay away from drugs and bad people and I'm going to start staying with my family. I can't wait to get out because I really miss my friends and family. When I'm locked up I don't feel good. Everyday I feel sad like I need to cry when I don't see my mom, my brother, my sister, and my other family members. I miss my little sister very much. I have to straighten out my life now.

J.T. (male) age: 13



MYLIFE

I wake in the morning and I open my eyes. I feel heartbroken because I didn't get to tell her good bye. Being away from her makes it hard to stay alive but the thought of her gives me the will to survive. I'll do what ever it takes to give her what I never had and when that day comes I know we will both be glad. I don't want her to grow up without a father I would come back a better man to raise up my beautiful daughter. Having a daughter is the best thing that happened to me. How could I be so stupid? Why couldn't I see that life is not a game? Now she barely knows me and I'm the one to blame. So sweetie when daddy comes back it's only going to be me and you. Everything I'm saying is true... it's easy to be a father but it takes a man to be a dad. I'll do whatever it takes to give her what I never had. Yes I made a lot of mistakes but I'll do whatever it takes to be there for every step of the way. I'll always be here for you till my dying day; I hope your mom understands that I ain't giving up on you. That I'll never do I just want us to be a happy family with love, joy, and laughter happily ever after...

R.A. (male) age: 16

My Life Story

There is a saying that I heard once it goes something like "you don't realize what you've got until you've lost it." I only realized that meaning of that saying just recently when I went to court and was remanded and sent to DYA. My first night in that cell was the worst night I've ever had in my life. Our beds were thin futons wrapped in green plastic. Our towels were torn and very small. We were allowed only 3 meals per day, one in the morning, afternoon and one at night. Every night I went to sleep I thought about what I had done and what punishments I deserved for my actions, I always thought that I deserved more than just DYA. Before I was admitted to DYA I was just another teenager out on the streets doing whatever I wanted and didn't care about what anybody said. My parents grew tired of how I was behaving. They called the police many times to counsel me about how I was acting towards my parents. As usual I didn't listen to what anyone had to say until my grandmother told me that we had a court hearing to determine whether or not I would be remanded to DYA. When the Judge told me that I would be serving time in a youth prison I was scared, more scared than I had ever been. I begged my grandmother not to send me there, but she told me that I had to learn my lesson and realize that how I was acting was wrong and unjust. So I followed the officer and was handcuffed with two other boys that were remanded. On the way to the facility I looked all around me and tried to take pictures in my head so that I would not forget what's outside the jail cell bars, and now that I am in the cell that I never thought I would be in, I finally realized what I HAD LOST!

C.J (male) age 16

The Reality

The reality is that things never work out according to plan. A lot of times in life we plan out what out life would be many times it might happen and other times it won't because we never know what life throws at us. I've never pictured myself in prison and unable to succeed or to carry out my goals. The reality for me is that all the goals and ambitions that I have may never be able to accomplish. Throughout my time here in DYA I've learned from other and they've learned from me. There are two clients in here I thought never paid attention to me while I was giving speeches, but come to find out they actually paid attention. There was a time when I talked about reality and these two took in everything. At the end of my speech they came up to me one by one and thanked me for opening their eyes to the reality that they are not getting any younger but they are actually getting older and that they need to change now before it's to late. One of the two was a female and she shared with me a personal story about her father that I couldn't believe. This person in particular was just reunited with her father and then not more then a month later her father was arrested and was going to be sent to a federal prison in the main land. She told me that she was really hurting deep down inside because she was taken away from her father, and all she ever wanted was to be with him, but now her reality is that she may never be able to be with him for awhile. Now the other is a male and he really caught me by surprise because all the times he came in here I always thought that he took it as a game, but on that day that I talked about reality he actually paid attention and told me "you Mike thanks for talking to us because now its time for me to wake up and smell the coffee" because all I'm doing is hurting my family. He told me that he wanted to change and to make a difference in his life because he wants to show his mother that he's tired of hurting her. This young man put his mother through a lot especially when he ran away, because he thought that he was only hurting himself but never thought about all the pain and suffering that he caused his mother. Now I can see that he is really trying to change his life. When he writes he is writing for the heart and the reality that it's time for him to get out of here and start changing. Just recently while we were writing stories for the December edition for DYA Youth Writers newsletter a 16yr old Micronesian wrote about me on how I inspired him to change. He told me that he doesn't know how I could stay in here for 3yrs and 7 months without running away. All these clients that I'm writing about I actually watched them grow up in here. There are other clients that I watched grow up in here, but these three actually caught my attention the most. A lot of times these clients wants to show everyone that they are not the same, but it is hard because they don't know how or where to start. Some of them open up to me and actually cry while they're telling me their stories. They even tell me that they feel that no one is paying attention to them and that no one cares. I told them that they are wrong because there are people out there that actually care and are paying attention.

All these kids really need is that unconditional love that they never received. A lot of them are ashamed to reach out for help because they don't want to be judged by people anymore, they just want to be heard. Some of them my just need a little sense of direction while others just need a little speck of light at the end of their dark tunnel. So I ask you all out there that's reading this please don't judge us clients in here because of what we did or because we're in here, please just give us a little lit of encouragement.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December is the month to start thinking and preparing for the Lords birthday. Out of all these days throughout the year this is the most important because not only was a man born but a Savior, a Redeemer, and a King of all Kings. He is a man that even though he knew what his fathers plan was for him he did not refuse, he willingly took what was given to him as his punishment. It is such a great honor and pleasure to tell you that I have this Savior in my heart. So even though I'm going through these and tribulations trails know that no matter what anybody does or say to me it won't matter because he strengthens me. To know that this man called Jesus would willingly give his life for the sake of all Mankind is so amazing. I know that if I was told that I had to give my life up for all these people that I don't even know I would complain. So I thank God and Mother Mary for giving us their only Son.

M.S. (male) age: 20

Pain

The anger in my body makes me feel so insane. I want to lash out but I got no where to aim. With the blood in my eyes I can't take it anymore. Pain causes the fear that I have and the love for my family. I need to succeed at least one goal in my life because if I don't. I start the pain that I strive. I am who I am today and I can't do anything about it because it's the choices that I make and I'm the one that started it.

H.J.P. (male) age: 17

ABOUT THE MOVIE "GOAL"

Goal is a movie about a boy from Mexico who smuggled into Los Angeles California who loved to play soccer. Than one day an old talent scout saw Santiago playing soccer at a local park and saw that he had great promises. So he told Santiago to go to England to try out for a professional soccer team called New Castle. Santiago started to train with the team, but later the team coach found out that Santiago had asthma and was almost kicked off the team, but his friend Harris stuck up for him. Then Santiago received a phone call from his grandmother saying that his father had died, Santiago was shocked because he didn't make peace with his father, but then he realized that there was no point in going back home, so he kept pursuing his dream of being on their National team.

C.J. (male) age: 16

The movie Goal is about a boy who was smuggled into Los Angeles, CA. The young man loved, to play soccer and grew up to play professional soccer, and while he played for a while, his father died Now he went on to the championship and after his father died he proved his father wrong because his father was telling him not to play soccer, because he wouldn't make it but his father kept stopping him from following his dreams and telling him to work hard and make a living so that he and his mother won't stay in a ghetto place. That's why Santiago left and played soccer. He followed his own dreams and not his fathers. And now he lives in a frice house and now he won the championship.

C.T. (male) age:

In the beginning of the movie Goal, Santiago's family crosses the border between Mexico and the United States to get a better life. Goal reminds me about August Rush because of the similarities they have. Both characters have something in common; they had self believe in their lives. They motivated themselves what they believed in in the movie August Rush music was what motivated that boy, in Goal soccer was what motivated Santiago. Goal is an inspiring movie, because it is sending a message to not give up on your dreams.

land. His father disagreed with him so he's trying to prove him wrong. His grandmother saved money and bought him a plane ticket to England. Then he left to England they made him play but they were playing bad sport because they kept tripping and pushing him. So they kicked him off the team and brought him back and he went to a game before he played a guy stepped on his inhaler and he just played and started to lose breath. Then they played another game and they made him play and they won and then they went to a party and the guys forced him to go up stairs and he did. When he went up stairs there were girls on the bed so they pushed him on the bed and took pictures of him and put it on the newspaper. His girlfriend was mad and then he found out that his father passed away and he started to cry. Then he played another game and he won his father saw the game and his grandmother called and told him and he was happy he yelled Haaa...then it ended.

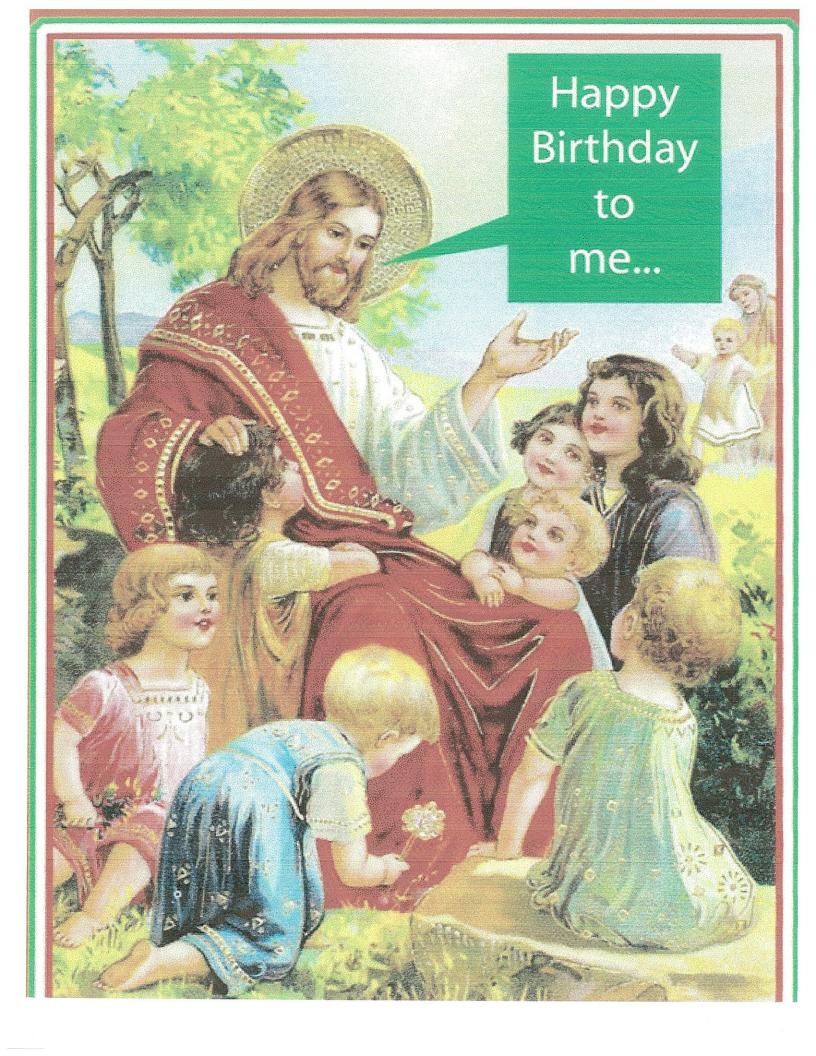
Goal is a movie about a guy

playing soccer ball and he got

offered to be in a team in Eng-

J.T. (male) age: 13

K.N.N. (male) age: 16



CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a very special day for me and my family, I always spend time with my family. I never miss Christmas with my family, but this Christmas I am going to miss it because I am in the Department of Youth Affairs. I did something that I'm not supposed to that made me come into DYA. Well I wish I have a chance to spend time with my immediate family members on Christmas Eve and on Christmas day. This Christmas I won't be spending it with them I would be spending it at DYA with the clients and staff. The Lord knows that I would like to spend it with them but because of my negative choices I would have to spend it here.

K.C. (male) age: 18

A MOTHER!

What kind are you? Put me so low After all I've been through! I try to make it work But she pushes me away My tag name suits me I wish everything can "FADE"! She says I never wanted a mother If only she knew All the shit she does Makes me so confused She wonders Why do I cry to her? How dense could she be? She's my own damn mother! A mother who's suppose to Love, care, & comfort me Instead she pays attention to my step dad All for the money! I wish she'd go back To the way she was before Before my step dad Walked through our front door! V.C. (female) age: 16

SOME USEFUL ADVICE

Well you don't want to be in (DYA) because you have to ask to use the bathroom, ask to drink water. You are even limited on food you only get to eat 3 times daily, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. You even have to let the staff know what we are going to do, like tell them we are going to fix our bed, going to throw our trash away. The only way to call the staff is to bang our padlocks or to try and flag them down. Well if you don't like to do the things that I told you then try not to get into trouble and don't do drugs or alcohol and listen to your parents. Because if you don't you'll get into trouble and you might end up like me and come into DYA. DYA is not a fun place to be in, because like I said earlier you are limited in doing a lot of things. How do I know because I am a client here and I've been here for about 6 months and I'm not happy to be in a place like DYA, I'd rather be out in the free world trying to help out my family. Anyways I'm glad that I'm in DYA because if I was not here then I would be doing something that would have gotten me into more trouble and will make me end up someplace that I would not like for example the Department of Corrections or maybe the mainland. Well it's good because DYA made me understand more than before and I would like to thank the DYA staff for helping me to become a better person then I was before. I would like to say that the DYA are my second parents.

K.C. (male) age: 18

EVERY TIME WE TALK

Every time we talk You seem to put me down! You accuse me of finding another Then why am I still sticking around? In person you're so messed up On paper you're all about love I always forget or make a mistake But still try I try to make "US" work Even when you lie If you really think about it You're really vague Respect and love Is what you need to gain? Because all this disrespect Always cost me a tear But even if I cried a flood, For you, I'll still be here! V.C. (female) age: 16



FOR A FRIEND

Started out with pot take the blame when your friend got caught! Your first time in D.Y.A. stayed a couple days then got released, your need for a high began to increase!

It was like marijuana didn't suffice so you needed something new and turned to ice!

You said you aren't addicted but little do you know! If you don't turn away your

About to lose your soul. If I can help in anyway let me know don't be ashamed or afraid!

I told you through thick and thin good deeds or sin!

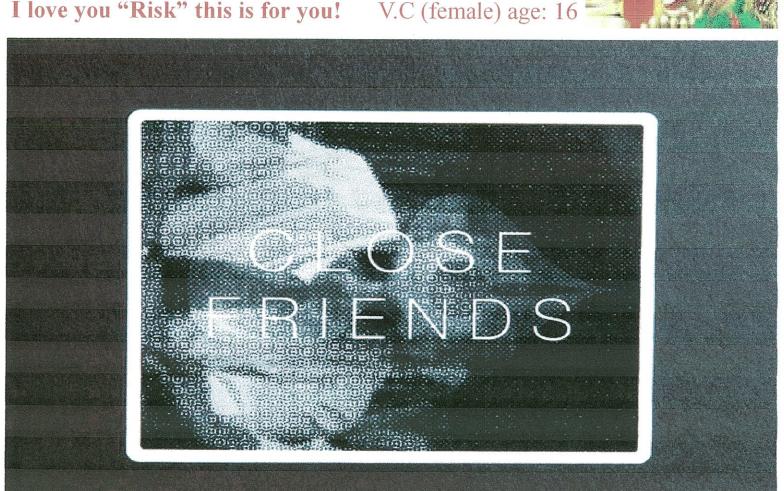
You're a very intelligent girl who can succeed in this world!

Turn away from the negative and get back on track Move on with life; keep yourself on your path!

I hope you'll open your eyes and see that you can succeed Because the impossible is possible with any

RUTHLESS "G"!

I love you "Risk" this is for you! V.C (female) age: 16



SHOUT OUT FROM THE CLIENTS

I would of course love to say "MERRY CHRISTMAS" the name is Dynamite I'm 18 yrs, old. I'm not spending Christmas the way I should be, but I'm making the best out of it; and living for each moment. Even if it pains me being away from my loved ones, I'm still holding in strong. Trying my best to maintain in this place, I love to make a shout out to people that are important to me and mean something to me in my life. Mom I love you and I miss you very much, be strong because I'm being strong. Thanks for trying your best when life kicked us hard in the butt. You're one mom I don't regret and I love no matter what. To my sister that's in the Army. ONA!! I miss you and I especially love you so much!!!! Me and you girl have a lot of catching up to do. The Army keeps taking you away from me. I know duties are duties, but I ain't getting any younger, and life is to short, so hurry up your monkey butt and come home. Because your sister is still... waiting for you. To my comedian brother I love you so... much and do I miss you? I have no clue where you are right now, but I pray that you are safe. Thank you for being the best brother that you try to be, even if I'm a pain in your butt. I would like love to say that I'm truly sorry for everything that I've said to you. Anything that might've hurt you I'm sorry. I just wanna let you know that I really do love you. You can succeed in life anything is possible. Don't give up. To my father I love you so much. I didn't have you growing up, but I have you now, and that matters most of all. I'm glad I finally found out who's my father, and that I'm getting to know you. You take care dad, hang in there and try to maintain yourself as much as I try to maintain myself in this place. I MISS AND LOVE YOU DAD. I look forward to seeing you on visitation always! Then to my fiance that I haven't seen in months, I'm still deeply in love with you, I miss you so damn much I think of you a lot, and I feel that's all I have left now is just our memories. We have a lot to talk about and I know it so be ready for me! I love and miss you! D.P. (female)

I would like to make a shout out to all my loving family and friends. You guys put me through hell, but you still made me strong in the end. I would also like to make a shout out to my best friend B.B. and his sister L.B. they've understood me very well and also a shout out to all the staffs for taking care of us. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family. From: K.O. (female)

I would like to give a shout out to Sanctuary INC. for trying to help me battle my addiction and to the light house recovery center for teaching me tools to deal with my problems and to Colleen Santiago don't take life to serious have a little fun life is to short, and to Serena for all the one to one and to B-dog Crisostomo keep up the clean and sober life best wishes. From: B.B (male)

I would like to make a shout out to my family that they have a wonderful Christmas and to my other half that he have a wonderful birthday!

From: V.C. (female)

I would like to make a shout out to my family, my friends, and all the DYA staff and their families, and to the DYA clients and their families. I would like to thank everyone that helped me out through out my years here. in DYA, my time here is coming to an end and I know that I would miss everyone. Through out my time here, you all helped build me up and you all gave me a little sense of hope that there is light and the end of my dark tunnel. Even though I'm getting transferred to DOC I know that you all are in my heart and in my prayers and I know I'll be in yours. So from the bottom of my heart and from my family to yours have a very merry Christmas. From: M.S. (male)

I would like to thank everyone for all the courage and hope they influenced to help me be a better person, I would like to thank Our Lord for everyday we get and all the support He provides for us to live by.

From: Z.L. (male)

I would like to make a shout out to my parents and siblings and to the love of my life and her family. I want to tell them Merry Christmas and I love them from the bottom of my heart. Also to the DYA employees and the DYA clients have a Merry Christmas.

From: K.C (male)

What Christmas means to me.

Christmas is the time of year, when you and your family get together give gifts and so as received them. You all gather around your Christmas tree, so beautifully decorated. Forget all your debts, all your burdens, forget all your problems in this world and all your attention is focused on our joy and pride: "your family!" You sit there with them and feel that happiness inside! Everyone opening they're gifts! Everyone testing their new items! Then we all sit around the one furniture that brings a family together, our dinner table. We have a delicious feast! Talk about our memories and laugh! Everyone has a smile upon their face! This day brings a family together and fills everyone with joy and happiness! And we share that extraordinary feeling with each other!

V.C. (female) age: 16

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME.

When I was a little girl I used to think that Christmas was just about presents. That's what I thought, because I saw it happening even if gifts were rarely given to me. I just figured that's what it was all about, but I was of course a little girl. Christmas is now more then just that it's more then just gifts; it's the gift of giving. Spending time with people you love, and who love you back. Sharing time in everything we do in life on a special day that we call Christmas. Its days like Christmas that I've recognized that we don't take for granted. It shouldn't be like that. All days in life should be like that. On Christmas I've always wanted to spend time with important people that I love and care, like family, but at most times it didn't work out that way. It was either the choices that I've made, or the path that I've taken, or even that they've gone. I didn't know what really happened on Christmas for me. All I know is that I could only imagine what it could be? Or how it could be? Even if I didn't have a real Christmas. Christmas means a lot to me, because I care and love people that made a difference in my life.

I feel really happy when someone tells me that I've made a difference in their life. That's like the ultimate Christmas present- making an impact on someone's life. When you make an impact on someone's life that person will never forget you. That's why I know on Christmas I'll have them on my mind.

D.P. (female) age: 18

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME?

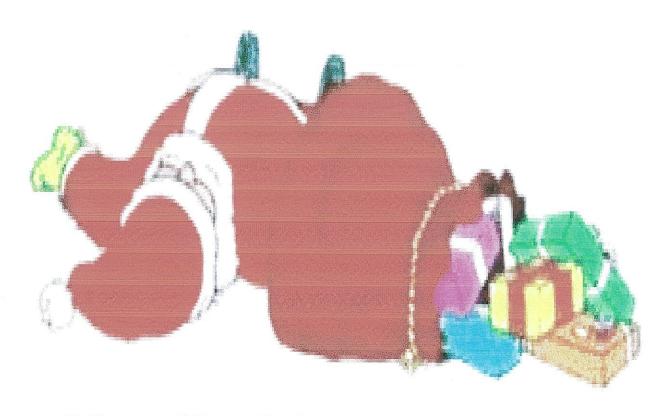
I guess it's a special day that families get to have a good time celebrating. To be merry means to be happy. Spending time with our loved ones would be a very merry day. Some people are less fortunate that they don't have families or loved ones to share the holidays with. There are some people who just take life for granted and throw it a way the good times for the bad times. They just can't realize that spending time with our families is really important especially when you've got to live life without them by your side cause of the choices you've made that you are now trying to correct. I remember when I was little my family meant so much to me I was always around them. As a teenager I was more of doing things my way not caring for anyone besides myself or my friends; I was careless. At the time my parents tried everything they could do to discipline me, then I got even worse. My parents are very understand it's just that I was hard headed. Now I'm in jail because I never listened to my parents they only tried to help me learn and be a better son and person. They tried to lead me to a successful life and they won't give up even though I'm locked up. I love them for all the support, comfort, and teachings; they've really helped me a lot especially to get more comfortable around them. Now I could talk to them about anything and they're always here to listen no matter how I treated them or all the times I've never listened. So no matter what's on my mind I'm happy knowing that my family will support me through life situations. I thank God everyday in my heart that He hears our calls and is the only one who is the One Righteous. I'm thankful that we find Rest and Peace only through Jesus.

Anonymous

Please Hote:

CHISTMAS IS CANCELLED

Apparently, YOU told Santa that you have been GOOD this year ...



He died laughing